

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

MAY 14, 2013

SUPPORT REVISIONS TO AB717 TO REPORT “SUBSTANTIATED” CASES OF SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE

The Child Abuse Central Index (CACI), developed in 1965, is a database system housed by the California Department of Justice that includes general information related to child abuse. The information in this index, such as name, birth date and an agency to contact for more information, is used by law enforcement officials and by child welfare agencies in the detention and placement of children. It is also utilized by schools, childcare providers, and youth organizations to screen potential employees.

Starting January 1, 2012 state law prohibits a police department or sheriff's department from submitting suspects' names to the Department of Justice for inclusion in the Index, even in cases of substantiated abuse or neglect. Only child welfare agencies are permitted to contribute substantiated cases to the registry which means that the entries are now limited to only those people in charge of a child's custody or care such as parents, guardians or foster parents. Child care workers, coaches, teachers, or extended family members are now excluded.

Creating a gap in credible information limits law enforcement's ability to establish a pattern of abuse, especially for those suspects that frequently move. In addition, the suspects in these “missed cases” have a greater possibility of being offenders with a greater number of victims due to the nature of their crimes.

In the interest of child safety and protection, it is recommended that the County of Los Angeles seek to reinstate the requirement that all law enforcement agencies in the State of California report all “substantiated” cases of suspected child abuse to the California Department of Justice, Child Abuse Central Index (CACI).

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MOLINA _____

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I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office, in collaboration with the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, to work with the Los Angeles County Sheriff and Los Angeles County District Attorney to initiate legislative changes to the law enforcement prohibition of AB 717 that represent a risk to child victims.

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